

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

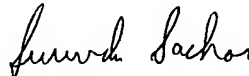
By the present Preliminary Amendment, a new Abstract believed to be in more proper format under United States practice is submitted.

Further, claims 1-21 are canceled without prejudice and new claims 22-42 are presented for examination. New claims 22-42 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter. Further, new claims 22-42 are not believed to be more narrow in scope in any aspect in comparison with canceled claims 1-21.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
GJM/SNS:aif

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

I:\ATTY\SNS\272637US-PR.DOC